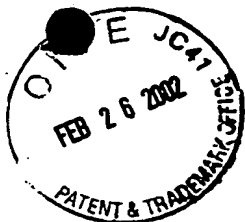


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By: [Signature]

Date: February 7, 2002

#141C
Hildebrandt
Ext. 1 mo.
J. M. Chillon
3/9/02
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TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Peter Hildebrandt et al.
Applic. No. : 09/322,715
Filed : May 28, 1999
Title : Coupling Device
Examiner : Sarah Song
Group Art Unit : 2874

A M E N D M E N T

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

S i r :

Responsive to the Office action dated October 2, 2001 kindly
amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (amended). Coupling device, comprising:

C

an optical fiber holder having a top face, a bottom face,
narrow side faces between said top face and said bottom face,
with transition regions formed between each of said narrow